

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Lawrence Stahl on August 23, 2010.

Please amend claims 30, 31, 39, and 41 as follows:

Claim 30: (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer storage medium having a computer program recorded therein for representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said computer program comprising:

code for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image, the additional opacity channel initially set to fully opaque to represent that all of the image color is visible;

code for compositing at least one partially transparent graphical object having object color and object opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity; and

code for compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel thereby being less than fully opaque representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image.

Claim 31: (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer storage medium having a computer program recorded therein for representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said computer program comprising:

code for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image, the additional opacity channel initially set to fully opaque to represent that all of the image color is visible;

code for compositing at least one partially transparent graphical object having object color and object opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity;

code for compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel thereby being less than fully opaque and representing an amount of the original image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image; and

code for utilizing the updated additional opacity channel to remove the remaining image color in the composite image.

Claim 39: (Canceled)

Claim 41: (Canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art teaches generating an additional opacity channel for use in creating a composite image, and compositing at least one graphical object having object color and opacity with an image having image color and opacity, to create the composite image, which has composite image color and opacity derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color, and the image opacity. The prior art further teaches compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the graphical object with the image. However, the prior art does not teach that subsequent to compositing a partially transparent object with an image, an additional opacity channel that is set to fully opaque is composited with the partially transparent object's opacity to update the additional opacity channel such that it is less than fully opaque and represents the amount of image color remaining after compositing the image with the object. Thus, the subject matter of independent claims 1, 15, 21, 22, 24, 25, 30, and 31 is allowable. The remaining dependent claims depend directly or indirectly from allowable independent claims, and are therefore also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAVID T. WELCH whose telephone number is (571)270-5364. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8:00-5:30 EST, and alternate Fridays, 8:00-4:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xiao Wu can be reached on (571)272-7761. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/dtw/

/XIAO M. WU/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2628